

NEW YORK HERALD  
TRIBUNE

March 20, 1964

## 18th World Youth Forum Assembly

# Rowan Speaks Up for Revolutions

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Carl T. Rowan, new director of the United States Information Agency, said yesterday that this country's response to political revolutions throughout the world has been "commendable," and "the status quo has never been our god."

The USIA chief told 2,800 New York area youths, at the 18th annual New York Herald Tribune World Youth Forum assembly in Philharmonic Hall of Lincoln Center, that the revolutions which are sweeping the earth would have occurred whether or not Karl Marx was born.

The gathering was the last major public appearance of this year's crop of delegates from 37 countries who conducted four panel discussions, and gave a costumed musical program on the streamlined symphony hall stage.

Mr. Rowan said the United States is following "a rule of reason and a rule of conscience" in its policies for both the "physical and spiritual" survival of emerging countries and older nations alike.

As an example, he said that since World War II American taxpayers have given more than \$100 billion to other peoples, "not in terms of charity but as a measure of enlightened self-interest never equaled by a great world power." He continued:

Many of today's new nations would not have gained independence but for our persistent and responsible support for the principle of self-determination.

"And many new nations would have lost their free-

dom now but for our assistance."

Mr. Rowan said the world is confronted with "revolutions—plural" of science and technology, of biology and medicine, and of "rising expectations." These have combined to create the most "far reaching of them all," that is, the political revolution that has "so dramatically and drastically altered the face of the globe."

Turning to the brilliant array of Forum delegates seated beneath floodlights in a row of blue chairs across the stage, Mr. Rowan noted that there are today about 50 nations that did not exist when the delegates were born.

"Who," he asked his audience, "would have dreamed just 15 years ago that one of the major concerns of Americans today would be Viet Nam, or Laos, or Cyprus, or the Congo?"

"In our era of technological revolution, it is literally true that the cry of a hungry child in Africa or Latin America can be heard by the well-fed in Washington and San Francisco; that the anguish of the enslaved behind the barbed wire and bamboo walls of distant places can be felt by the free in Mexico City and Milan and Minneapolis."

Mr. Rowan said there is "too much misunderstanding," some of it deliberately fomented by adversaries, of the relationship of the American people toward "good" revolutions, such as the American Revolution, and "bad" revolutions, as in Cuba.

No area requires more effective communication than the explanation of such ap-

parent "ambivalence" in American reaction to political upheaval and the surge for independence by peoples of many countries, Mr. Rowan said.

In a greeting to the assembly, John Hay Whitney, editor in chief and publisher of the New York Herald Tribune, announced that for the first time this year a "forum in reverse" will be launched by the World Youth Forum. Some 20 top students from the New York area will spend seven weeks in Europe this summer, meeting students and civic and government leaders.

"As the years go on," Mr. Whitney said, "I hope and expect that the Forum will continue to grow, and to be an increasingly valuable part of the lives of the many participating schools."

Mr. Whitney noted that when the Forum was founded by Mrs. Ogden Reid, former president of the New York Herald Tribune, in 1946, "the atomic age was in its infancy" and most of the delegates and their countries had not been born. Mrs. Reid was in the audience.

Pan American World Airways, Trans World Airlines, Panagra and Ethiopian Airlines provided transportation for the delegates, and Scholastic Magazines, Inc., co-sponsored bus trips through New England and to Washington and Richmond.

Laughter and applause greeted participants' remarks during panels on "Youth Around the World," "A Generation Apart," "Changing Nations" and "Youth Looks Ahead." Some of the comments, on light and serious subjects, follow:

Constantine Sarantis of Greece: "We don't have girls

in our school in Greece—so we work."

Klaus Kirchert of Germany: "In my country, the youths just can't understand the grownups. Their past is so completely different."

Christian De Meulemeester of Belgium: "There is one lesson Belgium learned when it lost its most valued colony. It could still survive, and even flourish."

Miss Chua Chooi See of Malaysia: "Communism appeals to the Chinese in Malaysia and they paint a golden picture of life behind the Iron Curtain. But they don't realize it is a classless society have a moral obligation because everyone is equally poor."

Torbjorn Loden of Sweden: "Well developed countries toward underdeveloped nations. As Mr. Rowan says, let us not associate ourselves with the status quo."

Robert S. Huffman, Forum director, led the panels.